

Al to release the hydrocarbons so adsorbed thereto as temperature increases. Additionally, a switchable recirculation pipe for recirculating part of exhaust gas to an induction side of an engine is connected to the adsorbent material side passage downstream of the adsorbent material. Furthermore, a switching valve is provided where the adsorbent material side passage and the other exhaust passage (hereinafter, referred to as "the other passage") join together which is adapted to open one of the exhaust passages while closing the other thereof. This switching valve is driven to open the adsorbent material side passage when a vacuum is provided which is generated when the engine is in operation.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An exhaust emission control system of an internal combustion engine for cleaning exhaust gases discharged from the internal combustion engine comprising:

an exhaust system defining a main exhaust passage connected to an internal combustion engine, and a bypass exhaust passage which branches off and joins back to the main exhaust passage;

a switching device switching an exhaust gas flow path to either of the main exhaust passage and the bypass exhaust passage;

an adsorbent material disposed within the main exhaust passage for adsorbing unburned constituents of exhaust gases introduced into the main exhaust passage and releasing the unburned constituents as temperature increases; and

a control device operable to control the switching device,